

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017, 7:00 P.M., AT THE PARKS & RECREATION OFFICE, 162 WHISCONIER ROAD.

Present: Joei Grudzinski, Vice Chairman; Rob Blick, Renee Santiago, John Mangold, Cassie Dunn. Dennis DiPinto, Director; Elaine Rajcula, Secretary.

Absent: Bryan Chnowski, Ed Butt.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting were held over until the next meeting. We will approve April and May minutes at the June meeting. Secretary will send out minutes of April and May prior to our next meeting on June 28th.

Trail Census – D. DiPinto – Shared the results of our newly installed infrared trail counter. The reports measured the number of trail users for the period between February 24 and April 17, 2017. Discussion held concerning monitoring the trails and parking. D. DiPinto stated the Greenway is an economic benefit to the Town and that soon we will establish concrete evidence of this. For the period of February 24 to April 17, 2017 we are averaging over 300 trail users per day.

Recreation Supervisor's Report – Mary McGuirk - D. DiPinto informed the Commission that the Beach is ready to be opened beginning Memorial Day weekend. Spring programs are getting started and Summer program registration is now underway.

Park Supervisor's Report – D. DiPinto informed the Commission that six grounds seasonal help have been hired and will be supplementing the workforce beginning Tuesday May 30th. Scholastic sports are beginning to wind down and club sports have about a month of organized activity left in the Spring season.

Financial Report – D. DiPinto – Recreation side - 83% spent; Parks / Grounds side – 80% spent. Invoices still pending include three months of mowing contract as well as annual retention payment. The last of the Capitol items has been purchased which included the installation of a 14' x 30' prefabricated storage building to match the existing buildings on site.

Subcommittee Reports – Communication – D. DiPinto stated that our Facebook followers are now over 1600 people. Recent posts include the trail user numbers and graphs as well as various drone footage of the various parks.

Old Business

SRG Maintenance/Refuse/Waste –

High School Tennis Courts – Port-o-john– D. DiPinto – The port-o-johns were inadvertently removed by the BOE, but at the Director's request replaced for the season.

Tick Problems – John Mangold, acting as an advocate for the schools, asked the Director that a motion be made to add Tick control on public properties to the Agenda.. Three different families in the Brookfield schools have made this request. D. DiPinto has surveyed 12 surrounding towns and asked what (if anything) Parks & Recreation

Departments do in the way of tick control programs. All area Towns with the exception of Newtown do not spray for ticks on public properties. All other Towns including Brookfield have chosen to stick with best practices which include- cutting grass short, mowing up to edges of wood lines and to keep up with leaf litter. Approximate annual cost to put Brookfield Schools and Parks on a program would likely be in the \$30,000 range. If the nurses see issues, they will go to the Board of Ed. R. Blick stated Tick Control is a big decision if we want to put it in the budget. Should the Town ever go in the direction of a tick management program, the locations should be formally announced. J. Mangold will engage the BOE in some informal discussions to see where the BOE stands on the issue and will report back to the Commission for further discussion.

Infra Red Counter Training – D. DiPinto has received notice that Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments will hold a training class on surveying trail users on Thursday, June 1st. According to the grant we received for the installation of the trail counter, approximately twice a year informal surveys are recommended in order to keep our trail counter active. He is looking for 2 members to attend and be trained. The class is 1 ½ hours.

Road Race Events – C. Dunn made a suggestion that all established road races, (such as the Mothers' Day Race), be coordinated with the P & R Department, who would be included in the issuing of permits. The role of the Park and Recreation Department would be to make sure that certain race routes are not over used and that races are coordinated in such a way that all can be successful. Having races that use the same course should be spread out by at least a few weeks so that all have a chance for good participation. D. DiPinto will speak with Police Chief Purcell, Board of Ed and Kim Petruska, concerning this concept, to set up an overall policy.

Adjournment – A motion was made by C. Dunn to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by J. Grudzinski. Passed.

The next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission will be on Wednesday,

June 28, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the P & R office, 162 Whisconier Road.